

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13-28, 30 and 31 are pending in the present application. Claims 15-28 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 30 and 31 are allowed. Claim 14 is rejected.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,573,553 to Nakamura in view of US 6,294,860 to Shimada et al.

Applicants note that Nakamura is a reference only under section (e) of U.S.C. §102. Applicants further note that the present invention was filed on September 24, 2001, which is after November 29, 2000.

Applicants submit that both the present invention and Nakamura were, at the time the invention was made, subject to assignment to Fujitsu, LTD. This statement was also made in Applicants' response dated November 1, 2004.

In view of the above, without commenting on the substance of the rejection under §103 Applicants respectfully submit that Nakamura may not be used in any rejection under §103. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under §103 should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

Application No. 09/960,398
Group Art Unit: 2814

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 011254

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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